

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03

NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 SAJ-01

OIC-04 FEA-02 DRC-01 INT-08 /152 W

----- 069907

R 051903Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7734

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 01659

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, UK, PINT

SUBJECT: FCO OFFICIAL DISCUSSES "EAST-WEST"

LABOR ISSUES

REF: (A) LONDON 1354; (B) LONDON 1195; (C) LONDON 0790

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: GEORGE FOGGON, FCO OVERSEAS LABOR
ADVISER, INVITED THE EMBASSY LABOR ATTACHE AND DR. RUDY
VOLLMER, GERMAN LABOR ATTACHE, TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE
TO DISCUSS RECENT "EAST-WEST" DEVELOPMENTS IN
EUROPEAN LABOR, INCLUDING THE ATTITUDE OF THE TUC.

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HE ALSO DISCUSSED THE FORTHCOMING VISIT OF THE TUC

DELEGATION TO THE U.S. AS GUESTS OF THE AFL-CIO. OTHER BRITISH REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT WERE H. HURST, DEPUTY LABOR ADVISER, AND CYRIL MARSHALL, BRITISH EMBASSY LABOR ATTACHE IN BRUSSELS. END SUMMARY

2. HE SAID THAT WHILE THE FCO DOES NOT FAVOR THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNIFIED WORLD TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION SUCH AS THE PRE-1949 WFTU, WHICH THE TUC APPEARS TO SUPPORT, HE DOES NOT SEE THIS AS "IMMEDIATELY ON THE HORIZON, BUT PERHAPS TEN YEARS AWAY." NOR DOES HE FORESEE THE OPENING IN THE NEAR TERM OF THE ETUC TO COMMUNIST TRADE UNIONS, WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF THE ITALIAN CGIL. FOGGON BELIEVES THAT THE GERMAN DGB, IN ANY CASE, WILL STAND IN THE WAY OF WHOLESALE ENTRY OF COMMUNIST TRADE UNIONS.

3. THE BRITISH OFFICIAL MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE FCO'S MAJOR CONCERN FOR THE MOMENT (WHICH HE AMPLIFIED IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH THE EMBASSY LABATT) IS THAT THE BRITISH TUC IN CONCERT WITH OTHER EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CENTERS MAY AGREE TO A FUTURE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE WHICH WOULD BE HELD PARALLEL TO A CSCE. FOGGON BELIEVES THAT SUCH A TRADE UNION CONFERENCE WOULD BY ITS NATURE PRODUCE BROAD RESOLUTIONS DESIGNED TO INFLUENCE THE DECISIONS OF THE CSCE. HE IS FEARFUL, IN PARTICULAR, THAT THE TUC MIGHT ACQUIESCE AT SUCH A PARALLEL CONFERENCE -- PERHAPS OUT OF A DESIRE FOR ACCOMMODATION TO "WELL-MEANING" RESOLUTIONS WHICH WOULD COMPLICATE THE WORK OF THE CSCE.

4. FOGGON EXPLAINED THAT WHILE THE TUC MIGHT HAVE BEEN WILLING TO AT LEAST LISTEN TO THE FCO'S POINT OF VIEW ON VARIOUS ISSUES SOME YEARS AGO, THIS WAS NOT THE CASE IN THE MORE RECENT PERIOD. HE BELIEVES THAT THE INFLUENCE OF JACK JONES, WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE TUC INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE, IS THE KEY FACTOR, AND THAT TUC GENERAL SECRETARY LEN MURRAY IS TOO NEW TO THE JOB, AND TO INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE, TO HELP CHANGE POLICY AT THIS JUNCTURE.

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5. HOWEVER, FOGGON EMPHASIZED THAT LEN MURRAY WAS A GENUINE MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROADER, AN IMPORTANT, THOUGHTFUL MAN, AND A GOOD TRADE UNIONIST - BUT ONE WHO HAS NOT HAD SUFFICIENT TIME TO STUDY INTERNATIONAL LABOR ISSUES. FOGGON ADDED THAT HE FERVENTLY HOPED THAT WHEN MURRAY VISITS THE U.S. AS PART OF THE TUC DELEGATION (REF A), AN OPPORTUNITY WILL ARISE FOR AFL-CIO PRESIDENT GEORGE

MEANY TO SEE HIM SEPARATELY FROM THE OTHER THREE DELEGATES. IN ESSENCE, FOGGON IS HOPING THAT MURRAY'S VIEWS ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS WILL NOT BE PRE-JUDGED BY THE AFL-CIO IN TERMS OF CURRENT BRITISH TUC ATTITUDES EVEN THOUGH HE WAS A KEY SPOKESMAN FOR THE TUC AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE JANUARY 19 (REF B).

6. COMMENT: FOGGON'S MAIN CONCERN APPEARS TO BE THE USE OF FUTURE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCES FOR SOVIET POLITICAL PURPOSES -- A HIGHLY JUSTIFIED CONCERN. SOVIET TRADE UNION LEADERS HAD INITIALLY SOUGHT AN ALL GDS ANNENBERG

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 01659

EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE ON PEACE AND SECURITY,.
HAVING FAILED TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL, IT IS REASONABLE
TO ASSUME THAT THEY WOULD STILL HOPE TO USE OTHER
CONFERENCES -- EVEN WHEN THEY ARE CALLED TO DEAL WITH
OSTENSIBLY "NON-POLITICAL THEMES SUCH AS 'HUMANIZATION
OF THE ENVIRONMENT' AS A SPRINGBOARD FOR OTHER CLEARLY
POLITICAL IDEAS.

7. FOGGON'S VIEW THAT A MORE PROFOUND RECONSTRUCTION
OF THE WORLD TRADE UNION MOVEMENT IS "NOT VISIBLE ON
THE HORIZON" IS MORE DEBATABLE. FOR EXAMPLE, PRACTICALLY
NO EUROPEAN TRADE UNION LEADER WOULD HAVE SUGGESTED --
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JUST A FEW YEARS AGO -- THAT THE HEAD OF THE SOVIET
AUCCTU, SHELEPIN, WOULD BE PARTICIPATING IN SUCH AN
ATMOSPHERE OF AMITY WITH NON-COMMUNIST LEADERS IN A
EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE SUCH AS TOOK PLACE
LAST MONTH IN GENEVA. AT LEAST, THE RECONSTRUCTION OF
THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION MOVEMENT - WITH THE COMMUNIST
TRADE UNION CENTERS PRESENT - MAY NOT BE SO FAR OFF.

8. AS FOR FOGGON'S SUGGESTION CONCERNING A SEPARATE
MEANY-MURRAY MEETING, WE CERTAINLY SHARE HIS HOPE
THAT ONE WILL OCCUR. THE BRITISH TUC'S ROLE IN
EUROPEAN LABOR IS OF FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE. MURRAY
AS GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE BRITISH TUC WILL HELP TO
INFLUENCE THAT ROLE. IT IS BY NO MEANS CERTAIN THAT
HE WILL DEVELOP AN ALTERNATIVE VIEW FROM THAT OF
JACK JONES, BUT IT IS POSSIBLE AND SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED.

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